



5.2.10 // Mark 10:1-9

Materials Needed: 2 pieces of colored construction paper (both pieces need to be the same color), tape or glue

Opening Activity

- Hold up one sheet of construction paper and explain that this piece of paper illustrates the perfection of creation before the fall of humanity, before sin and brokenness entered into the world. The piece of paper has no blemishes, rips or tears. This was God's intention for creation – complete perfection and unity with Him.
- Now, ask the kids to hold on to the piece of paper all at once and rip and tear it all at the same time.
- There should be pieces of colored construction paper all over the floor. Ask them how the piece of paper is different from what it was before.
- Take the glue or tape out and ask them to try to piece it back together. How does this work out?
- Let's read tonight's passage, and then we'll return for further explanation after we dive in and discuss how sin and brokenness affects our lives and points to our need for a mighty Savior in Jesus Christ.

Read Mark 10:1-9

And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them. And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Discussion

The Pharisees in this passage approach Jesus to *test* him and see how they can find fault with His teachings on the matter of marriage and divorce, so Jesus has them recall Moses' teachings on the subject from Deuteronomy 24:1. Jesus explains that Moses permitted divorce because the Israelites' hearts had become hard –they no longer paid attention to what God wanted for them because they chose themselves over God. This is what happens when sin and brokenness are in our lives.

God's plan, design and order for creation from the beginning were and will always be perfect. The mountains, seas, and stars, along with the rest of His creation reflect His beauty and grandeur, and He created us with even more care. He created you and me and the rest of humanity in His *own* image and likeness. But when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God by choosing their own desires instead of what God wanted for them, sin and



brokenness entered the world and immediately distorted God's creation and caused it to be different than what He had intended (kind of like what happened to the piece of construction paper in our activity when we tore it apart. It was no longer a *whole* sheet of unblemished construction paper). Similarly, creation no longer displayed the perfect likeness of God. It became broken and distorted. We see an example of this in tonight's passage when the Pharisees were asking about divorce – an action that leads to a break in marriage, something that God never intended, but that was only allowed due to people's sinful, hardened hearts.

Question One: In what other ways do you think the world is different than God intended it to be before sin and brokenness entered? *Allow the kids to answer for themselves, but here are some examples to guide their thoughts: War, injustice, sadness, and death were never a part of God's plan for the world. People were never intended to get sick. Kids were never intended to live without a mommy or a daddy. Marriages were never meant to be broken. People were never meant to experience homelessness or struggle to have food to eat or a place to live.*

Question Two: How do sin and brokenness affect our hearts? *Sin causes us to be separated from God and all that God is. This means that we're removed from the source of every good thing for our lifetime and eternity unless someone saves us, which is what Jesus does.*

Thankfully, our God is all knowing and is the God of justice, mercy, love and grace. He knew we would turn away and choose ourselves over Him before the world began. He knew that He would need a **mighty rescue plan** to restore us back to Himself, regardless of our depth of sin, so that we could spend eternity with Him and love and worship Him.

Without His help, God knew that no matter how hard we would try or how good we would try to be, we could never fix ourselves. It certainly didn't work too well to try and glue or tape the construction paper back together, did it? This is similar to our efforts to try to piece ourselves back together. We will never be able to fix ourselves, and God is the only One who has the power to do it.

Question Three: How has God rescued us from sin and brokenness? *By sending His perfect Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to live among us and to experience the punishment (death on a cross) that we deserved – all to restore us back to Himself ... allowing Jesus to take on the sin and death of the world – past, present and future – so that all of the broken things that humanity would ever do would be fixed by Jesus. And when we choose to believe in Jesus and ask Him to be King of our lives, we get a new and redeemed life.*

Praise God!

Wrapping Up

Let's take a look at the distorted piece of construction paper that we tried to piece together at the beginning. Now, compare it to the second sheet of construction paper that was never ripped or torn. This *whole* and *complete* piece of paper symbolizes how our lives and all of



creation will look when Jesus comes back in full glory at the end of time. Everything will be made new (Revelation 21:5)!

Choosing ourselves over God will always be a struggle for us even when Jesus reigns in our hearts because while we are saved the moment we trust Jesus, we are transformed into His image over time. But as we live in community with one another and point each other to Jesus, dig deep into the Bible to learn God's instructions for us, and pray that God would change our hearts to be more like His, we will become more and more like Jesus every day. He will then refine our hearts so we sin less and can glorify Jesus more and more. Let's close in prayer and ask Jesus to make this a reality in our lives!